NetScanTools® Pro
Monthly Newsletter
www.netscantools.com

July 2019

https://twitter.com/netscantools

https://www.facebook.com/NetScanTools

https://www.youtube.com/user/netscantools

https://netscantools.blogspot.com/

In this newsletter:

News

- **NetScanTools Pro 11.90 Released July 30, 2019**
- **NetScanTools Pro PingTrend**
- **Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool 2.83 Released April 16, 2019**

News…

From the Editor…

NetScanTools Pro 11.90 is finally released! Next up is work on the Switch Port Mapper. Have a great summer.

-Kirk

NetScanTools Pro 11.90 Released July 30, 2019

This release has a major new tool addition and a big improvement Ping Flooder. The new tool is a vastly superior version the existing Graphical Ping Tool. It operates much faster and saves all the latency data to an SQLite database. Read about it in detail in the next topic "NetScanTools Pro PingTrend".

The other major improvement is to the **Packet Flooder**. We have had several requests by customers to alter the flooder so that you could specify the percentage of outgoing bandwidth used. It's here. It's called 'auto' mode. You specify the desired bandwidth and press Send UDP Packets. The old mode is now called 'manual'.

As you can see in the running example below, we asked for a 30% bandwidth utilization in the Flood Mode section.
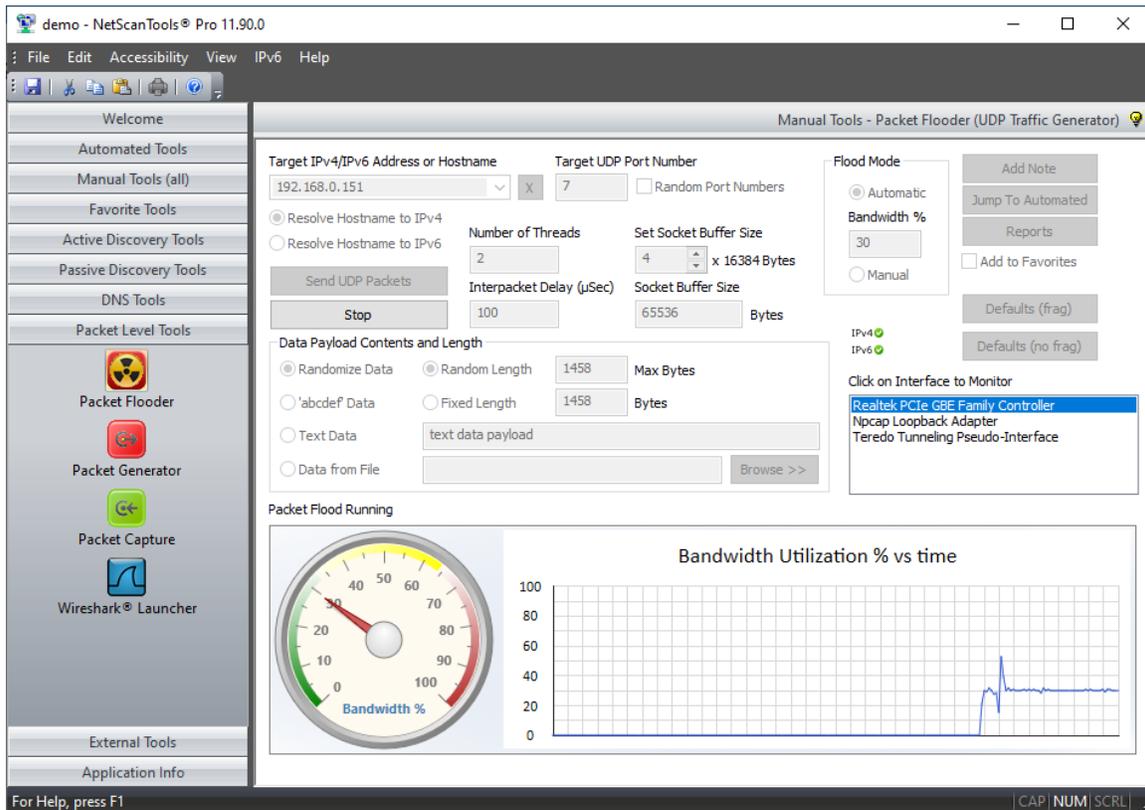
WinPcap. As you may know, WinPcap has not been updated for years. Several tools in NetScanTools Pro depend on WinPcap for capturing and sending packets. The Nmap developers took over the task of improving WinPcap and have done a great job. Npcap uses NDIS 6 instead of the old NDIS 5 that WinPcap uses. There are technical differences between the two drivers and this release looks for the presence of both drivers instead of only WinPcap. If either one is not running on the host, you will be told. It will also tell you if they are not installed. If you decide to install Npcap we recommend you use the default WinPcap API Compatibility mode.

USB Version Only/WinPcap: in all previous versions of NetScanTools Pro we have included the old WinPcap OEM or Pro. We licensed it years ago. The purpose of it was to have WinPcap available for use without installing it on the host system. However, Microsoft disallowed the method WinPcap OEM used for creating the npf.sys driver on the fly – probably for security reasons. Over the last few releases we have been deprecating it and insisting that WinPcap or Npcap be installed on the host system. 11.90 is the first version to fully require that. WinPcap OEM has been removed.

Click on Help menu/Check for Update to get the latest version – however, you must have an active maintenance plan to get this new version. USB version users will be downloading a patch – follow the directions carefully. Installed version users will be installing over the top of their current installed version.

NetScanTools Pro PingTrend

NetScanTools Pro. We have completed a new rapid repetition ping tool called PingTrend. It is being integrated into NetScanTools Pro and should be ready during the first week of July.

The purpose of this tool is to send ping packets rapidly (approx. 5ms fastest repetition rate) and save the response for analysis after sending is complete. Use it to detect link problems such as dropouts and slow responses. It is intended to run for hours. It shows graphically latency, average and jitter over the time you have run the tool. It is currently working quite well. It has been tested with 32 million pings so far.

This image shows the new tool. Note that we now have a dark and light theme for both the PingTrend tool and the reporting tool.
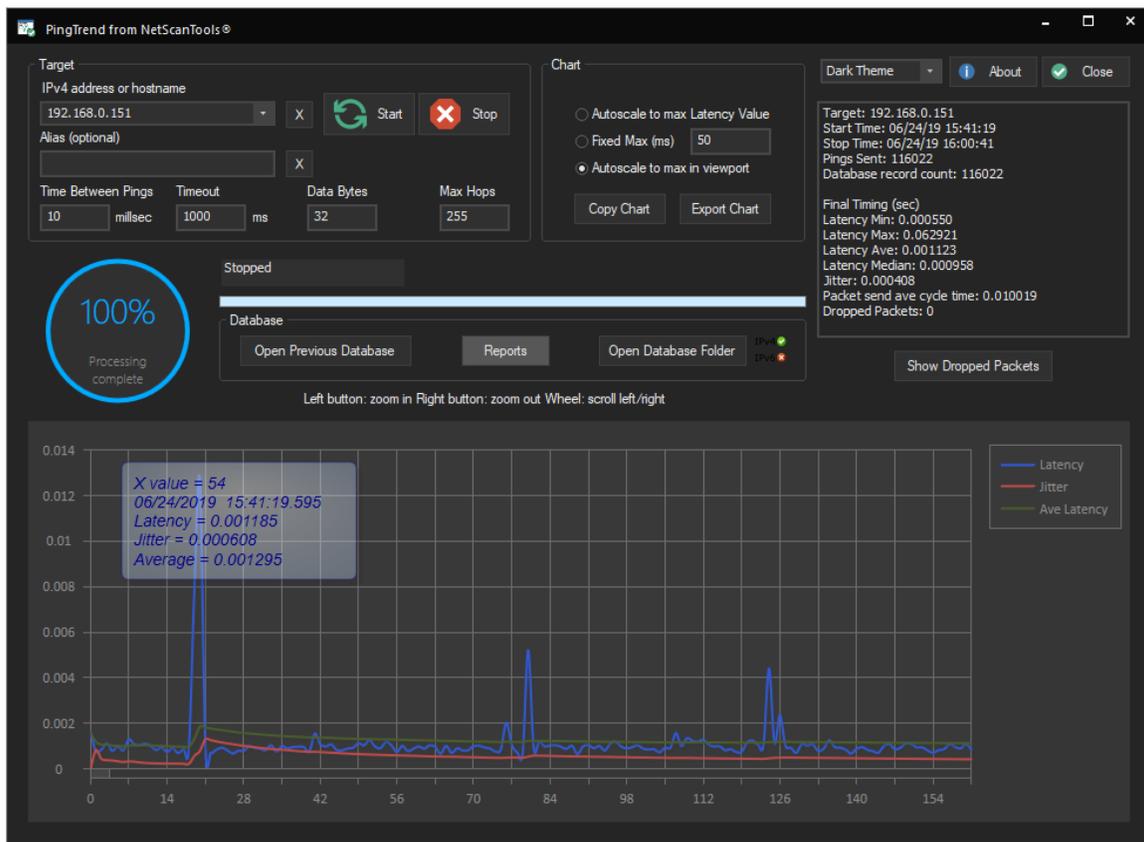
The next image shows the **new report tool** launched when you press the Report button. The Test Configuration chart shows the current data window (when launched it shows the whole database) including statistics over that window. The Latency Histogram chart breaks down the response time in groupings of milliseconds and shows a count along with an integrated bar chart. The Dropped Packets chart shows the total pings over the range, total dropped packets and sequential dropped – 2, 3, 4 and 5 or more sequentially dropped packets in a row.

As with the the main PingTrend tool, the report tool graph shows the latency, average and jitter over time. Hovering the cursor over a point on the graph gives you the time and data at that point. You can save or print the results.

'Dark mode' is shown. There is also a light mode.
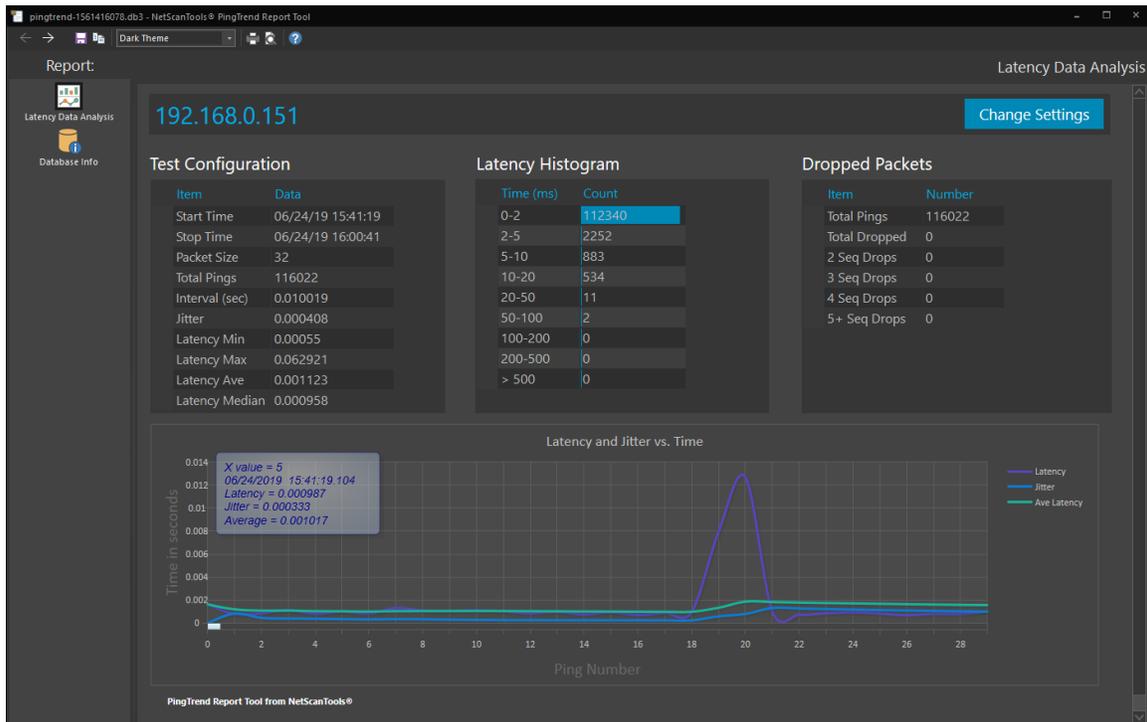
Managed Switch Port Mapping Tool 2.83 released April 16, 2019

There are several changes in this release, however, no algorithm or brand specific changes. The biggest visible change is the removal of all things having to do with 10SCAPE. 10SCAPE was a cloud-based network mapping solution – a startup – and our software was the data gathering module. The bad news was that they ran out of venture money and ceased operations on December 31, 2018. At that point there was no longer a reason to include the 10SCAPE data export functions since the cloud based software was gone. Those functions are now removed.

We had several requests for a method of transferring switch settings from one installation to another. There is now a new method of doing that accessible from Database Maintenance. It exports all the switch and device settings plus switch lists to a transfer database. You can take that to another installation and import those things quickly without having to re-enter the settings manually.

We also had a couple requests for a different method of Switch List results XML export. In previous versions we placed the results from each switch in the list on a separate page in the spreadsheet. The request was for placing the results all on one single sheet with a new left-hand column indicating the switch IP address. This was done and the other original method has been retained so you get the option of choosing which output style you want. This export method is found in Review History.

There are other minor changes and we updated SQLite and the MAC/Manufacturer database.

The full list of changes in 2.83:

-Removed 10SCAPE data export functions. 10SCAPE was a cloud based network mapping solution that went out of business at the end of 2018.

-Added Export and Import of switch, device and switch group data so that the settings can be transferred to another computer eliminating the need to re-enter the settings.

-Updated website links from http to https.

-XML export by right clicking in the switch results grid has now changed so that the cell alignment is forced to the top of the cell. This will make the results viewed in a spreadsheet match what you see in the results grid.

-Review History: Switch List results can now be exported to XML on a single spreadsheet sheet in addition to the previous method of placing each switch results on a separate sheet. We added a new left hand column showing the switch IP address when exported to a single sheet. Note that the XML exports can be directly opened by spreadsheet software instead of being imported. Reduced automatically created sheet name to 29 characters.

-Review History: searching now defaults to 'contains'.

-Review History: left list of manual mappings or switch lists now has a header stating what the list currently represents.

-Review History: new button allowing export of the contents of the right side Available Results list. Removed 10SCAPE buttons and improved the layout and text.

-Updated dates to 2019.

-Updated MAC address/Manufacturer database.

-Updated SQLite to version 3.27.2

Contact Information

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to email.

Northwest Performance Software, Inc.
PO Box 1375
Sequim WA 98382
(360) 683-9888
www.netscantools.com
sales [at] netscantools [dot] com

'NetScanTools Pro', 'NetScanTools Standard', 'NetScanTools Basic', 'NetScanTools LE', 'ipPulse', 'Northwest Performance Software' and 'NetScanTools.com', are trademarks of Northwest Performance Software, Inc. 'NetScanTools' is a registered trademark of Northwest Performance Software, Inc.

Other names and trademarks are the property of their respective owners.